
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AUDIT OF
COMMISSARY OPERATIONS AT OUT-OF-STATE CORRECTIONAL
FACILITIES CONTRACTED TO HOUSE HAWAII INMATES.

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that commissaries at
2 correctional facilities provide an opportunity for inmates to
3 purchase goods for personal use, such as sundries, hygiene
4 products, and food; and

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6 WHEREAS, the prices of goods at correctional facility
7 commissaries are often higher than those found in public retail
8 stores, and the Legislature is concerned that the markups at
9 these commissaries may be excessive; and

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11 WHEREAS, Hawaii inmates that have been transferred to the
12 contracted Saguaro Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona, are
13 charged an extra four percent on all commissary orders as
14 payment toward restitution and are charged Arizona's sales tax,
15 in excess of nine percent, on all commissary purchases; and

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17 WHEREAS, Hawaii inmates owing restitution currently have
18 twenty-five percent deducted from their inmate accounts each
19 month; now, therefore,

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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
22 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
23 House of Representatives concurring, that the Auditor is
24 requested to conduct a financial audit of commissary operations
25 at out-of-state correctional facilities contracted to house
26 Hawaii inmates based on information obtained pursuant to the
27 contract; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the audit include but not be
30 limited to the following determinations:



- (1) The total annual revenues generated from the sales of commissary items during the fiscal year immediately preceding the audit;
- (2) The total annual expenditures incurred for the operation and maintenance of each commissary during the fiscal year immediately preceding the audit;
- (3) The criteria used to select the type of items that are stocked and made available at commissaries;
- (4) The method used to determine the price of items sold to inmates at commissaries; and
- (5) Any contractual agreement where a party other than the state operates the commissary to identify any controls on pricing and profits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to submit a report of its findings, recommendations, and actions to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor and the Director of Public Safety.

